

Message Text

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14

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 MC-02 DRC-01 /157 W

----- 023092

R 021700Z NOV 73

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2337

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0578

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, AO

SUBJ: MPLA ATTACK IN CABINDA

1. THE PORTUGUESE ARMY COMMAND HAS REVEALED THAT MPLA LAUNCHED A CO-ORDINATED ATTACK OCT 8 ON ITS BARRACKS IN TOWN OF MICONGE, LOCATED IN EXTREME NORTHERN TIP OF CABINDA, USING MORTARS, RECOILESS RIFLES AND ROCKET GRENADES, ACCORDING TO THE COMMUNIQUE THE ATTACK LASTED 60 MINUTES AND KILLED 1 SOLDIER, SERIOUSLY WOUNDING 2 AND LIGHTLY WOUNDING 13.

2. COMMENT. WHILE SMALL ATTACK BY MOST STANDARDS, IT IS SIGNIFICANT IN THAT IT MARKS FIRST USE IN RECENT MONTHS OF SEVERAL TYPES OF ARMS IN ONE ATTACK AND, BY ITS DURATION, SHOWS THAT MPLA HAD PLENTY OF AMMUNITION. ALSO, CABINDA SECTOR HAS BEEN RELEATIVELY QUIET FOR ALMOST ONE YEAR. THIS REPORT TIES IN WITH INFORMATION OBTAINED IN EASTERN MILITARY ZONE ABOUT SHIPLOAD OF ARMS FOR MPLA BEING OFFLOADED FROM BULGARIAN SHIP IN POINTE NOIRE IN EARLY AUGUST. THERE IS SOME APPRE- HENSION ON PART OF PORTUGUESE THAT THIS SHIPMENT MIGHT ALSO HAVE CONTAINED SURFACE TO AIR MISSILES, BUT, TO DATE, NO REPORTS OF PAF LOSSES HAVE BEEN HEARD.

BRIGGS

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NNN

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